

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 8 and 17 without prejudice or disclaimer, and amend claims 1, 9, 10, and 18, as follows. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A method of forming a luster coating film, comprising the steps of:

(1) applying an aqueous luster thermosetting base coating composition (A), the solids content of the base coating composition (A) being about 5 to about 15 wt. % to a substrate in two to five stages, in such a manner that the thickness of the base coating composition (A) applied in each stage becomes 0.3 to 5 μm when cured,

wherein the substrate is

a plastic substrate,

a body of an automobile or motorcycle, part thereof, or metal material that forms the body, whose metal surface has been subjected to a chemical conversion treatment,

the body, part, or metal material that is coated with an undercoat,

the body, part, or metal material that is coated with an undercoat and an intermediate coat, or

the body, part, or metal material that is coated with an undercoat, an intermediate coat, and a colored base coat;

(2) applying a thermosetting clear coating composition (B) over the uncured or heat-cured coating layer of the base coating composition (A);

(3) applying an aqueous luster thermosetting base coating composition (C), the solids content of the base coating composition (C) being about 5 to about 15 wt. % to the uncured or heat-cured coating layer of the clear coating composition (B) in two to five stages, in such a manner that the thickness of the aqueous luster thermosetting base coating composition (C) applied in each stage is 0.3 to 5 μm when cured;

(4) applying a thermosetting clear coating composition (D) over the uncured or heat-cured coating layer of the base coating composition (C); and

(5) heating the four-layer coating comprising the base coating composition (A), clear coating composition (B), base coating composition (C) and clear coating composition (D) to obtain a cured four-layer coating film;

wherein, in step (1), the solids content of the aqueous luster thermosetting base coating composition (A) one minute after the application in each stage is at least 40 wt.%;

wherein, in step (1), after each coating stage, the applied composition is allowed to stand, or is preheated at about 50 to about 80°C;

wherein, in step (3), the solids content of the aqueous luster thermosetting base coating composition (C) one minute after the application in each stage is at least 40 wt.%;

wherein, in step (3), after each coating stage, the applied composition is allowed to stand, or is preheated at about 50 to about 80°C;

wherein the aqueous luster thermosetting base coating compositions (A) and (C) each comprise a water-soluble or water-dispersible, crosslinkable functional group-containing resin, a crosslinking agent and a flaky luster pigment;

wherein the flaky luster pigment has a mean particle diameter of about 5 to about 50 μm and the mean thickness of the flaky luster pigment is about 0.01 to about 2 μm .

Claims 2-8 (Canceled).

Claim 9 (Currently amended): An automotive body or a part thereof having a luster coating film formed by the method according to claim [[8]] 1.

Claim 10 (Currently amended): A method of forming a luster coating film, comprising the steps of:

(1) applying an aqueous luster thermosetting base coating composition (A), the solids content of the base coating composition (A) being about 5 to about 15 wt. % to a substrate in two to five stages, in such a manner that the thickness of the base coating composition (A) applied in each stage becomes 0.3 to 5 μm when cured,

wherein the substrate is

a plastic substrate,

a body of an automobile or motorcycle, part thereof, or metal material that forms the body, whose metal surface has been subjected to a chemical conversion treatment,

the body, part, or metal material that is coated with an undercoat,

the body, part, or metal material that is coated with an undercoat and an intermediate coat, or

the body, part, or metal material that is coated with an undercoat, an intermediate coat, and a colored base coat;

(2) applying a thermosetting clear coating (B) over the uncured or heat-cured coating layer of the base coating composition (A);

(3) applying an aqueous luster thermosetting base coating composition (C), the solids content of the base coating composition (C) being about 5 to about 15 wt. % over the uncured or heat-cured coating layer of the clear coating composition (B) in two to five stages, in such a manner that the thickness of the aqueous luster thermosetting base coating composition (C) applied in each stage is 0.3 to 5 μm when cured;

(4) applying a thermosetting clear coating composition (D) over the uncured or heat-cured coating layer of the base coating composition (C);

(5) applying a thermosetting clear coating composition (E) over the uncured or heat-cured coating layer of the clear coating composition (D); and

(6) heating the five-layer coating comprising the base coating composition (A), clear coating composition (B), base coating composition (C), clear coating composition (D) and clear coating composition (E) to obtain a cured five-layer coating film;

wherein, in step (1), the solids content of the aqueous luster thermosetting base coating composition (A) one minute after the application in each stage is at least 40 wt.%;

wherein, in step (1), after each coating stage, the applied composition is allowed to stand, or is preheated at about 50 to about 80°C;

wherein, in step (3), the solids content of the aqueous luster thermosetting base coating composition (C) one minute after the application in each stage is at least 40 wt.%;

wherein, in step (3), after each coating stage, the applied composition is allowed to stand, or is preheated at about 50 to about 80°C;

wherein the aqueous luster thermosetting base coating compositions (A) and (C) each comprise a water-soluble or water-dispersible, crosslinkable functional group-containing resin, a crosslinking agent and a flaky luster pigment;

wherein the flaky luster pigment has a mean particle diameter of about 5 to about 50 μm and the mean thickness of the flaky luster pigment is about 0.01 to about 2 μm .

Claims 11-17 (Canceled).

Claim 18 (Currently amended): An automotive body or a part thereof having a luster coating film formed by the method according to claim ~~[[17]]~~ 10.